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Report of preliminary interrogation of WILHELM GERLICH, AIC 1900, carried out by 3rd U.S. Army, 28th September 1945.

TICOM

26th October, 1945,

No. of pages. 2

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PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION REPORT

PRISONER: GERLICH, WILHELM, AIC 1900 28th September 1945.

PERSONAL DATA

GERLICH was born in 1915, the son of German parents living in CZECHOSLOVAKIA. He graduated from high school and attended the teachers' college at the University of PRAGUE, where he received a Ph D in 1939. In 1940 he taught at a German Oberschule in SVITAVY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, for half a year and then resigned. He claims that he could not stand the interference of German Nazi school authorities and went to work in a bakery concern belonging to his father-in-law. He learned this trade during his frequent furloughs from the Wehrmacht into which he had been inducted in the meantime. He speaks German, Russian and Czech fluently. After two years with a signal regiment he was sent to an interpreters' school at MEISSEN and HALLE, where he remained for one year and a half. Subsequently he attended a two month's course in decoding at JUETERBOG, after which he was assigned in January 1945 to a NAAST (Nachrichtenaufklaerungsstelle) in CRACOW. That office retreated before the Soviet forces toward the American lines, finally coming to a halt at TEFEL. GERLICH wanted to contact his family in SVITAVY and remained in hiding for about three weeks. He eventually surrendered to American authorities and was discharged from the German Army in June 1945.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

GERLICH was arrested by a Czech police official on 6th September 1945 in MARIANSKE LAZNE and was turned over to the CIC in that town. He arrived without an arrest report at Third U.S. Army Interrogation Centre (Prov) on 26th September 1945.

KNOWLEDGE BRIEF.

GERLICH has knowledge of German intelligence operations against the Russian forces. He also knows the codes used on the Eastern front.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

GERLICH claims that the employees of his father-in-law's factory wished to seize the property and denounced him and his father-in-law as Nazi sympathizers in order to put them out of the way.

Declassified by D. Janosek,
Deputy Associate Director for Policy and Records
on 12/7/2010 and by dp